



September 5, 2017

The Honorable Roger Berliner  
Montgomery County Council President  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

RE: Bill 23-17-Animal Control-Performance Animal-Violation

Dear Council President Berliner:

We remain adamantly opposed to Bill 23-17 as presently written and desire the opportunity to provide meaningful input.

On behalf of our respective organizations, we are writing to express our collective disappointment regarding the decision not to grant our request for additional time to develop and prepare our input regarding this Bill.

Given that our volunteer organizations have not been able to develop consensus regarding this Bill, and that the Fall harvest season is upon us, we will be unable to continue discussions and provide meaningful input before the opportunity for comment closes on September 6.

We therefore again request postponement of the September 11 work session until later in the fall.

The additional time would permit the assembly of a workgroup consisting of those organizations listed below, as well as representatives from the HSUS to discuss the merits of Bill 23-17. The first meeting of the work group would best be scheduled after the harvest season has ended in November, with Public Safety Committee and Council action to occur after this group has sent you their report. We are aware of nothing that makes this legislation so urgent that this request for additional time cannot be accommodated in the best interests of stakeholder involvement.

Your favorable response to this request will enable us to move forward in a proactive way to get through our busiest time of the year.

Sincerely,

Mark Ryba, President

Montgomery County Agricultural Center Inc.

Michele Cropp, President  
Montgomery County Farm Bureau

William F. Willard, Chair  
Montgomery Ag. Producers

Doug Lechliden  
Mont. Co. Ag. Advisory Committee

Cc: Montgomery County Council Members,

Jim Clifford, Esquire MC Agricultural Center, Inc.

Nichole Paquette, Vice President, Wildlife Preservation, Humane Society of the United States